

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3615

INFO DEA HQS WASHDC

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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DEA HQS FOR EOIL/ANTONELLI

EMBASSY FOR DEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR CS

SUBJECT: FY 1976/1977 NCAP

REF: STATE 088051

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: FY 1975 NCAP APPROVED IN JUNE 1975 HAS ENABLED MISSION TO INITIATE ACTIVE NARCOTIC CONTROL PROGRAM IN COSTA RICA. THAT ASSISTANCE IS NOT SUFFICIENT, HOWEVER, TO SUSTAIN PROGRESS AT DESIRED PACE AND ACCOMPLISH OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF ASSISTING COSTA RICA TO BECOME INDEPENDENTLY EFFECTIVE IN INTERNATIONAL NARCOTIC CONTROL WITHIN TWO YEARS (ASSUMING NO MAJOR INCREASE OR CHANGE IN NATURE OF CURRENT TRAFFICKING). THE COMMODITIES AND OPERATIONS SUPPORT REQUESTED IN OUR FY 1976 NCAP ARE NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN IMPETUS OF PROGRAM. END SUMMARY.

2. ALL COMMODITIES AUTHORIZED UNDER FY 1975 NCAP HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AND DELIVERED TO THE COSTA RICA DEPARTMENT OF NARCOTICS. THIS EQUIPMENT, PLUS THE OPERATIONAL SUPPORT
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WHICH BEGAN IN MAY, 1975, HAS ENABLED THE GOCR NARCOTICS

DEPARTMENT TO CONDUCT NUMEROUS INTENSIVE INVESTIGATIONS WHICH IT WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO UNDERTAKE. THESE INVESTIGATIONS RESULTED IN FOUR SIGNIFICANT SEIZURES OF COCAINE AND THE ARREST OF NINE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKERS. THE SEIZURES AND INTENSIFIED ENFORCEMENT EFFORT HAVE GIVEN COSTA RICA A REPUTATION AMONG COLOMBIAN TRAFFICKERS AS BEING A TOUGH COUNTRY. THIS HAS HAD A DESIRABLE DETERRENT AND DISRUPTING EFFECT ON TRAFFICKING.

3. IN ADDITION TO THE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES, THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM OBJECTIVES HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED:

- A. GOCR DEPARTMENT OF NARCOTICS AUTHORIZED MANPOWER WAS INCREASED FROM 40 TO 60.
- B. GOCR ITSELF FURNISHED FOUR ADDITIONAL VEHICLES FOR NARCOTIC ENFORCEMENT.
- C. GOCR DEPARTMENT OF NARCOTICS IS IN PROCESS OF ASSIGNING NARCOTIC AGENTS TO ALL PORTS OF ENTRY.
- D. GOCR HAS INCREASED ITS FINANCIAL COMMITMENT FOR NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTIVITIES FROM \$95,985.00 IN CY 1975 TO MORE THAN \$108,776.75 IN CY 1976.
- E. GOCR HAS INITIATED ITS OWN DRUG ENFORCEMENT TRAINING COURSE FOR ALL NEW NARCOTIC AGENTS.
- F. GOCR NARCOTICS DEPARTMENT GIVES SEMINARS TO LOCAL GROUPS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF NARCOTIC PROBLEM.
- G. GOCR MINISTER OF PUBLIC SECURITY HAS STATED THAT IN 1977 HE WILL BE ABLE TO ABSORB THE OPERATING EXPENSES NOW BEING PROVIDED UNDER THE NCAP. (FY 1976 NCAP OPERATING FUNDS REQUESTED WOULD ACTUALLY BE DISTRIBUTED IN INTERIM QUARTER AND FY 1977, EXPIRING IN MAY 1977 AND WOULD THEN BE ABSORBED BY GOCR).
- H. GOCR FORMULATING PROGRAM TO MORE EFFECTIVELY CONTROL UNATTENDED AIR STRIPS AND COAST LINE. (THIS MAY, HOWEVER, REQUIRE MATERIAL ASSISTANCE IN FY 1977 BEYOND THAT REQUESTED IN OUR FY 1976/77 NCAP SUBMISSION. SEE OUR FY 77-78 CASP).
- I. PRESIDENT OF COSTA RICA HAS EXPRESSED INTENT TO COOPERATE FULLY ON NARCOTIC AND OTHER FUGITIVES RESIDING IN COSTA RICA.
- J. GOCR COMMITTED TO MONITOR GROWTH OF OPIU POPPIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH GROW WILD IN SOME AREAS OF COSTA RICA AND COULD PRESENT GREATER PROBLEM IN FUTURE IF ERADICATION PROGRAM IN MEXICO IS SO EFFECTIVE IT STIMULATES PRODUCTION HERE.

4. OVERALL, MISSION VIEWS PROGRAM AS PROGRESSING VERY SATISFACTORILY. FOR THE FIRST TIME GOCR NARCOTICS DEPARTMENT IS WORKING UNILATERALLY IN INTERNATIONAL NARCOTIC CONTROL ALTHOUGH STILL SEEKING DEA ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING

CASES INITIATED BY ITS AGENTS. AS A BASIS OF COMPARISON, PRIOR TO ESTABLISHMENT OF DEA OFFICE IN COSTA RICA AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM, THERE TVD BEEN ONLY ONE CASE OF ANY SIGNIFICANCE IN COSTA RICA AND THIS WAS ACCOMPLISHED WITH U.S. ASSISTANCE.

5. EVEN THOUGH THE GOCR HAS INCREASED ITS COMMITMENT, THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SECURITY BUDGET IS NOT ADEQUATE AT THIS POINT TO PROVIDE THE OPERATIONAL SUPPORT AND NECESSARY EQUIPMENT TO KEEP UP WITH EXPANDING NARCOTIC CONTROL PROGRAM. COMMODITIES REQUESTED IN FY 1976 NCAP ARE NECESSARY TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION, RADIO COMMUNICATION AND OTHER OFFICE AND INVESTIGATIVE EQUIPMENT TO MAINTAIN IMPETUS OF PROGRAM.

6. REQUEST EARLY APPROVAL OF FULL COMMODITY AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT REQUEST CONTAINED IN OUR FY 1976 CASP.
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